

84/C/35  
ALLEN, BOWDEN  
& ALLEN,  
SOLICITORS.

Clapham House, High St, East St Leonards.

Address 124, Elizabeth Street.

Sydney 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1872  
Sunday morning.

My dear Andrew,

Your last letter of 27<sup>th</sup> ult. awoke me to the fact that I had put off answering your previous letter of 31 July last for more than 3 months. I felt horribly guilty & ashamed, but was cheered by your assurance in anticipation, that I was forgiven. I therefore answer you last as if I had not been guilty of any lack, - merely promising that my reason for so long delaying a reply was, not want of time or inclination, but simply from an unsettled & dissatisfied state of mind that I was half sorry & half ashamed to acknowledge. None of this anon. Meanwhile I answer both your letter & anticipation. It was quite impossible for me to have gone to Tasmania - I was in harness hard (very hard) at work in Melbourne up to the ~~22<sup>nd</sup>~~ 22<sup>nd</sup> July. I arrived in Sydney on 24 July & commenced active duty on 26<sup>th</sup> July, - some 3 weeks later than they commenced of my engagement. I had hoped the time near the means to go to Hobart, though I should have been delighted once more to meet you & "the faithful few." But since my brothers marriage, I have

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has become extremely distasteful to me & to  
my sister & it will be long before I  
see my birth place again. Don't be surprised at  
this candid avowal. We are not all  
constituted alike. Some people would sooner  
face dangers or difficulties than unpleasant  
surroundings. I am extremely annoyed at  
my brother's conduct & have so very little  
control over the manifestation of my sentiments  
that the consequence would probably be productive  
of any but pleasant results. He has not  
only broken faith with me in regard to  
pecuniary matters but has treated us all  
with a cool neglect that is very exasperating.  
Besides this, this family into which he has  
suffered himself to be drawn into  
allying himself with (Oh! shade of Dudley  
Murray, forgive this sentence) is extremely  
obnoxious to me & I must go some distance  
to escape them. However, enough of this.

Time has doubtless soothed your  
grief for the loss of your mother, but  
I hope it is not too late for me  
to contribute my sympathy. As I grow  
in years my contempt for the great  
majority of the male portion of humanity  
increases but my faith in the female  
kind & tenderness of woman grows firmer  
& surer. I can therefore well understand  
identify myself with your sorrow, but

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I Confess I think that we should rather  
Envy than regret those who pass  
away after a well spent life - it is not  
our sorrow but the expression of our  
own loss - is not most sorrow selfish?  
I feel I am now on dangerous ground  
& had better pass on to a more  
cheerful ~~unpleasant~~ topic.

I send my congratulations to  
"Andrew Julia Clark, The younger." I cannot  
wish him anything better than to hope  
that in all respects he will resemble  
his father & mother - the world will then  
have occasion to need him.

I send my kindest regards to  
Mrs Clark & if the course of your  
future life is what it will be  
you will both look upon the world with  
 kinder thoughts than the majority of  
its inhabitants. My warmest kindest  
wishes go with you both.

I have been unable to find  
the verses, but I am sure they will  
unexpectedly turn up some day, snugly  
concealed within the pages of some unthought  
of volume. I felt the greatest apprehension  
to appear against you I have ever experienced  
on reading your suggestion that I



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had decey'd (!) them. Really, I think that  
remark most unjust, if you believe I  
were capable of such act I cannot  
understand how you could ever hold me  
in kind remembrance or deem me worthy  
of your acquaintance. Surely you could  
not have meant what you wrote. I hasten  
to quit a subject upon which I feel  
so warmly.

I have rec'd a short note from  
Miffa & the promise of a larger letter.  
I am not at all sanguine about the  
fulfilment, & I am afraid (despite his  
assurance to the contrary) that I have  
safed out of his regard & the warmer  
claims his place in mine. Both my  
sister & myself send our affectionate  
remembrances. I am very glad to hear  
he is leaving my brother. I am glad  
for many reasons (some of which had  
perhaps better remain unexpressed)  
that I trust I believe that the change  
will be in every respect beneficial welcome.  
Please to remember me as of  
old to Mum & Joe.

I do not intend to write at  
any length of duty. I am under  
the impression that you have seen  
here & therefore a description of the

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City of the much vaunted Harbour need  
be unnecessary - Suffice to say that I  
think the latter, though doubtless of  
great varied beauty, inferior to that of  
Storm Bay. It lacks the magnificent  
background of hill & mountain that forms  
the chief charm of our native city.  
There are no considerable eminences  
about Sydney (though it's rocky to an  
uncomfortable degree) & no grand coup d'oeil  
to compare with that obtainable from  
the slopes of Mt Wellington or the shore  
of Kangaroo Point.

Sydney is in every respect a  
complete & startling contrast to Melbourne &  
its denizens - I confess that in most  
respects it is inferior to that city. I  
used to think the Victorians were "blowing"  
~~me~~ when they asserted that Sydney  
though a fine City was not to be  
compared with Melbourne, but there is  
now no former belief in the truth of  
that assertion that myself - for do I  
think the people here compare at

all favorably with the Melbourneites - they  
are popularly supposed to be kinder &  
more civil, but my experience shows them  
to be the reverse. They have a slow  
provincial manner & are absurdly conceited  
about their city, which, in the opinion  
of many, is a dull & dirty medley  
of new imposing buildings & miserable  
hovels; of old & new; of prosperity &  
revolting poverty; of ~~the~~ dirt, disease  
vice. Truly the amount of money that  
is squandered here in that most fearful  
& fruitless of curses, - Drink, is appalling.  
And vice is indeed here a creature  
of hideous mien. There is apparently  
plenty of money here, but the passions  
are of the most expulsive type of  
paroxysm. There is but little of grace  
or refinement ~~never~~ & the amusements of  
the people are of low type - Drinking,  
dancing, over-eating, scandal & the smallest  
of small talk form their pleasures.  
Corruption saps the vitals of the  
political & municipal institutions & the most  
appalling public scandals are freely  
bandied from mouth to mouth.  
Neither Senate nor Church escapes & if



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You believe a ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ of the ~~the~~ sold  
morals are at a very low ebb, which  
is my opinion of Sydney & I am heartily  
sorry to have to paint it in such  
unflattering colors. It is the place I  
had always set my heart upon for  
a long time. I could not comprehend  
that it could be so different from <sup>what</sup>  
~~the~~ my ideal. I could not realise my  
own feelings or its ~~bad~~ <sup>bad</sup> ~~kind~~ <sup>kind</sup>. This was  
one of my reasons for delaying to  
write to you. I may for the present  
quit this part of my subject by saying that  
I am heartily sorry I ever came  
here & you need not be surprised if  
you hear of my settling in Melbourne.  
However, I cannot, even if I wished,  
decide in a hurry & a ~~the~~ very large  
locus poenitentiae still remains. I  
desire the right & the hope of offering  
my opinions. (I send a few newspapers  
from which you can glean much  
that will corroborate my views) -  
I remained in lodgings for about  
5 weeks & was then induced to take  
this house. I have never regretted anything

so much in my life & I am sure my  
own people are anything but pleased  
to be dragged from their comfortable  
Melbourne home to the dirt, discomfort,  
& expense of ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> hundred of annoyances that attend  
life in a suburb of Sydney. However, here  
we have been for 2 months & see little prospect  
of obtaining better quarters, though we have  
scoured all the numerous suburbs of Sydney in  
search of a decent location. Rent for houses  
are 50 p. cent dearer than in Melbourne &  
100 p. cent inferior. Expresses are very heavy  
& I don't find my £8 per week go so  
far as the £6 in Melbourne. Add to this  
my brother's failure to find the small  
convenience agreed upon & the numerous inevitable  
express attendant on settling in a new  
country you can imagine that I write in a  
sombre mood. But my chief ground of complaint  
is at the office. I could not have gone into  
a more thoroughly detestable place. The principals  
are bearable. The majority of the staff  
unbearable. Referring first to the principals. Sir  
Geo. Mcgregor & Allen, who is ~~very~~ <sup>is</sup> very wealthy,  
takes hardly any part in the business, is mainly  
occupied with his Parliamentary duties (he was  
Speaker in the late House) & his private affairs  
as director of banks & companies, &c. Mr Arthur  
Allen, is a lazy, shuffling humbug & has very  
bad health (There is a shocking scandal current  
relative to his domestic affairs) & Richard Allen



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does absolutely nothing (unless <sup>cricketing</sup> be  
reckoned ~~part~~ of the entire duty of a Solicitor)  
All the work falls on the staff (16 in no.)  
Of these there are 14 workers (the rest being  
idle, dissipated lawvinkins who would not be  
tolerated for a week in a Melbourne  
office. Our Managing Equity Clerk, - a man  
60 years of age & a cleave enough fellow -  
is now away on his annual 3 months  
"drunk" & his work is falling on me.  
Last week with the ~~Ex~~ <sup>Ex</sup> Captain of ~~myself~~  
& 2 others there was not a stroke of work  
done wrong to the Election & the Cricket  
match - But what I <sup>have</sup> most cause to complain of  
is the want of anything like discipline or order.  
Every "scrubber," even the messenger, thinks, from  
long habit, that he has a right to "be at" <sup>any</sup> <sup>time</sup>  
room & regardless of the work on which  
you may be engaged, ply you with foolish  
questions, or low slang, or pull over your papers,  
sit in your chair, read your books or invite  
you to drink - It is sickening. It would be  
useless to complain as the principals are too  
indifferent to complain interfere & matters  
would soon come to a climax. There was a  
good deal of petty spite shown to me at

My arrival owing to a rumor having got about  
~~to~~ (I quote the words of one of the "idiots") "that  
"a core from Melbourne was coming up to keep us in  
"order". Keep order! It would be easier to keep  
order in ~~at~~ well, my own breast. Some of this  
state of affairs is due to the <sup>2</sup>principals  
~~being~~ allowing the Clerks to address them by  
their Christian names, - a habit that is  
prevalent here. I am looking out for a  
chance of breaking with the firm & I do not  
think it will be long before an opportunity  
offers. And what then? Well, if I were  
not the <sup>sole</sup> support of my family, I should certainly  
return to Victoria, - not necessarily to Melbourne.  
As it is I must be very careful as being out  
of employment would be a very serious matter.  
Life is an up-country form woe (from all  
I can hear) be almost unbearable, but I  
may give it a trial. You will hear from  
me before I decide.

I forgot to mention the climate which  
is not at all agreeable. The weather is warmer  
than in Victoria & there is much more humidity  
in the atmosphere. The heat is greatest before  
7 a.m. & noon & you are usually then  
in a state of profuse perspiration which  
I find very disagreeable. The heat is very  
enervating & accounts for the lazy listless  
manner of the people. The "boasting" is

That is done. There is something shameful - Some  
of the fellows in our office often do nothing  
for a week at a time. Much of this spirit  
or want of spirit is seen abroad & I could  
give you almost endless instances -  
There are a great many Tasmanians  
in Sydney & some of them are far from  
being creditable members of Society - Among these  
latter are Joe (or Harry) Morris - an almost palsied  
drunken stationer's hack - & Henry Chapman, a drunken  
beer do-well - <sup>amongst</sup> the decent ones are Ralph (who  
has bought a share in a good firm - he is a  
thorough trap hunter - I. C. Hallam (who holds your  
memory in grateful esteem) W. Hume (chemist)  
Mr. Leod (chemist) Gile (a clerk) & the hood  
are I think F. C. Burgess & Geo. Mason.





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I think I will now bring this lay epistle  
to a close by expressing renewed wishes  
for your health & happiness & hopes to soon  
hear from you in reply -

Ever affectionately thine

W. H. H.

A. Dyer Clark  
Hobart